Accumulation of coal stocks in pitheads

23. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge stocks of coal have accumulated at the pitheads;

(b) if so, what are the details theref alongwith the reasons thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to reduce or liquidate these stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The pithead coal stocks in Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited, as on 30-6-1993, were 42.40 million tonnes (provisional). Main reasons for accumulation of coal stocks are as under:—

(i) A minimum level of coal stock has to be built up by the coal companies so that there is no disruption in supply of coal to the major consumers during adverse weather conditions, heavy absenteeism etc.

(ii) There is a mismatch between production and transport capacities in some of the coal producing areas.

(iii) Tendency of end-users to indicate higher demand/non-lifting of coal by them as per their initial projections.

(c) Steps being taken to clear the accumulated stocks are:—

(i) Close monitioring of despatches by rail through interaction with Ministry of Railways.

(ii) Increased despatches by other captive modes like merry-go-round, ropeways, belt conveyors etc.

(iii) Since substantial accumulated stocks are available at the road linked collieries, consumers have been advised to draw coal by road.

(iv) To improve the availability of coal to consumers, schemes for liberalised sale of coal have been introduced.

Assessment of demand for coal

24. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry prpepares a comparative position of supplies of coal made to important sectors with reference to the assessed demands;

(b) if so, how much of these assessed demands have been estimated for various sectors in terms of quality and quantity;

(c) what is the criteria for preparation of such assessed demands; and

(d) whether it is a fact that these demands have been very unrealistic during the year 1992-93, in certain sectors like soft coke, brick kilns etc. and if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) Sector-wise demands for coal are assessed by the Planning Commission based on the consumption pattern in the previous years and also on the production targets fixed for each sonsuming sector. Following table shows sector-wise demand vis-a vis actual supply of coal during the years 1991-92 and 1992-93.